

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

L-03 H-03 RSR-01 /114 W

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R 030330EIUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5482

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1. SUMMARY: GVN HAS MANAGED TO INDUCE SEVERAL VIETNAMESE ECONOMISTS TO RETURN TO VIETNAM TO WORK IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR. MOST PROMINENT OF RETURNEES HAS LEFT FOR A VISIT OF SIX WEEKS IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

2. MOST PROMINENT OF THREE RETURNED ECONOMISTS IS NGUYEN TIEN HUNG WHO HAS BEEN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY AND PREVIOUSLY WAS ASSOCIATED WITH IMF. HUNG HAS BEEN NAMED SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. HIS OFFICE WILL BE IN PALACE.

3. HUNG LEFT SAIGON FOR WASHINGTON IN MID-JULY AND EXPECTS TO RETURN IN LATE AUGUST. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED HUNG'S VISIT AS A SPECIAL ECONOMIC MISSION TO GET MORE AMERICAN AID. WE UNDERSTAND PURPOSE OF TRIP IS LARGELY TO ARRANGE HIS PERSONAL AFFAIRS, BUT THAT HE WOULD BE TALKING TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, AND PREPARING THE GROUND FOR A VISIT BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

4. HUNG'S RESPONSIBILITIES HERE ARE NOT YET CLEAR; HE APPEARS TO BE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH POLICIES BEING PURSUED BY MINISTRIES OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE. HE HAS NOT PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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5. TWO OTHER RETURNEES ARE PHO BA QUAN AND VU THE CHINH, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE FROM WORLD BANK. QUAN IS BROTHER OF FORMER LABOR MINISTER PHO BA LONG, WHO IS CURRENTLY DEAN OF DALAT UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL. QUAN IS WORKING IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND CONCENTRATING ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE COORDINATION AND USES. CHINH IS ATTACHED TO NATIONAL BANK AND WORKING IN SECRETARIAT OF GUIDING COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN PREPARING DOCUMENTS FOR USE OF PROSPECTIVE DONORS, AND WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DEPTH FOR GVN'S ECONOMIC TEAM. MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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